

U.S. Representative Gregg Harper

FY 2010

Requests to Homeland Security
Appropriations Subcommittee

Project Name: Southeast Regional Research Initiative (SERRI) Program

Proposed Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University (as part of a consortium of universities and Oak Ridge National Laboratory), P.O. Box 6343, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Amount Requested: \$30,000,000

Project Description: The SERRI Program is a cooperative research program among a diverse group of research universities in the southeast United States and federal laboratories that addresses validated Department of Homeland Security (DHS) research requirements. Together DHS and SERRI work with state and local governments to identify homeland security challenges within the region emphasizing research into those regional challenges that have national implications. SERRI operates with three guiding principles: 1) research is directed toward DHS identified or validated challenges; 2) research has potential national impact; 3) research projects are selected based on independent evaluations and competitive procurement. Additionally, to ensure that project performance meets the highest standards, each research project is evaluated at least annually by a DHS selected group of outside subject matter experts who identify necessary course corrections, potential for collaboration, and areas for further exploration.

Currently SERRI is conducting over 50 research projects located in 7 states and involving more than 20 primary universities and 5 federal laboratories. These projects include tasks in flood management, mitigation and restoration; critical infrastructure protection; incident management; information sharing and management; cargo security, cyber security and regional resilience. To date the program has produced over 20 technical papers; 21 technical reports; 17 formal scientific presentations; 10 useful fact sheets and 5 scientific conference posters and continues to produce more on a frequent basis. The program has identified one national level Computer Emergency Readiness Team (CERT) vulnerability (VU#310355) and has 3 large-scale computational models that have been accepted in beta version by a number of federal and local government agencies. (SERRI reports, papers and presentations can be found at www.serri.org) As an added benefit to the program, SERRI research is having a significant impact on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. SERRI student research associates have won honors in two international competitions and several competitive scholarships. The program has been the catalyst for a number of masters and doctoral degrees.